

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02512 041825Z

50

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 SAB-01

CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-11 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 SPC-03 OC-06 PRS-01 RSC-01

SS-20 USIE-00 USSS-00 SY-10 FAA-00 WRD-03 SCCT-02

DRC-01 NEAE-00 /144 W

----- 109998

O R 041707Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6740

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2512

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, XF

SUBJECT: BRITISH AIRWAYS HIJACKING

1. PLO ISSUED CUSTOMARY STATEMENT HERE LATE MAR 3 DISSOCIATING
ITSELF FROM BRITISH AIRWAYS HIJACKING AND DENYING ANY CONNECTION
WITH SO-CALLED "ARAB NATIONALIST YOUTH ORGANIZATION FOR LIBERATION
OF PALESTINE". PFLP SPOKESMAN ALSO DECLARED TO INQUIRING NEWS-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 02512 041825Z

MEN THAT HIS ORGANIZATION HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS INCIDENT.

LEBANESE OFFICIALS STEADFASTLY DENY HAVING ANY KNOWLEDGE OF HIJACKERS' IDENTITY, AFFILIATION OR BOARDING POINT, ALTHOUGH LOCAL INDEPENDENT DAILY AN NAHAR REPORTS LEBANESE POLICE SUSPECT TWO YOUNG MEN WHO ENTERED LEBANON MAR 3 FROM DAMASCUS CARRYING PAKISTANI PASSPORTS AND BOARDED BA FLIGHT AT BEIRUT AIRPORT.

2. IF DEPT STILL INTERESTED IN FULL PASSENGER LIST, WE ARE ADVISED THAT BRITISH AIRWAYS HEADQUARTERS LONDON IS BEST SOURCE.

(NAMES OF SIX PASSENGERS IDENTIFIED AS AMERICANS WHO BOARDED BEIRUT WAS FURNISHED S/CCT BY TELEPHONE 1800 GMT MAR 3.)

3. COMMENT: (A) WE RECALL THAT "ARAB NATIONALIST YOUTH ORGANIZATION" FIGURED IN NOV 1973 HIJACKING OF KLM JUMBO TO DUBAI AND IN SEVERAL PREVIOUS INCIDENTS, BEGINNING WITH OCT 1972 HIJACKING OF LUFTHANSA AIRLINER WHICH RESULTED IN RELEASE OF THREE BSO TERRORISTS HELD IN MUNICH. TWO HIJACKERS INVOLVED IN LATTER OPERATION WENT TO LIBYA, WHERE THEY SOON DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT. KNOWLEDGEABLE LOCAL OBSERVER WHOSE FEDAYEEN CONTACTS HAVE INVARIABLY PROVED ACCURATE IN PAST INFORMS US THAT THEY HAVE NOW TURNED UP AGAIN, I.E., THAT THE TWO BRITISH AIRWAYS HIJACKERS NOW IN DUTCH CUSTODY ARE THE SAME RPT SAME PERSONS WHO HIJACKED LUFTHANSA AIRCRAFT IN OCT 1972. HE IDENTIFIES ONE OF THEM AS MARWAN HADDAD, FORMER PFLP MEMBER (AND DISTANT RELATIVE OF PFLP TERRORIST CHIEF WADI' HADDAD), WHO WAS COOPTED BY LIBYAN AUTHORITIES INTO JOINING LARG'S OWN PALESTINIAN TERRORIST APPARATUS SOME MONTHS AGO. STATEMENT REPORTEDLY ISSUED MAR 3 IN PARIS BY "ARAB NATIONALIST YOUTH ORGANIZATION" DESCRIBING BA HIJACKING AS WARNING AGAINST "DEFEATIST SOLUTIONS BEING IMPOSED ON PALESTINE PEOPLE" IS ENTIRELY IN KEEPING WITH LARG AND PFLP "REJECTIONIST" ATTITUDESE ME SETTLEMENT EFFORT.

(B) ANOTHER LOCAL RUMOR IS THAT BOTH BOAC AND BEA-- PRIOR TO THEIR MERGER INTO BRITISH AIRWAYS--WERE PAYING MONTHLY PROTECTION MONEY TO PFLP, AND THAT PFLP'S INCOME FROM THIS RACKET WAS HALVED WHEN MERGER TOOK EFFECT. THEORY IS THAT PFLP DEMANDED CONTINUED PAYMENT OF BOTH BOAC AND BEA TRIBUTE BY BRITISH AIRWAYS AND MOUNTED HIJACK OPERATION IN REVENGE WHEN THIS DEMAND WAS NOT MET. WE TEND TO DISCOUNT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 02512 041825Z

THIS THEORY IN FAVOR OF REPORT CONTAINED (A) ABOVE, ALTHOUGH IT QUITE POSSIBLE--GIVEN EVER-SHIFTING NATURE OF PALESTINIAN TERRORIST OPERATIONS AND ALLEGIANCES--THAT BOTH REPORTS ARE ACCURATE.

(C) FINALLY, AS ADDITIONAL NOTE OF POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE, WE WOULD NOTE THAT BA HIJACKING OCCURRED EXACTLY ONE YEAR TO THE DAY AFTERMURDER OF AMB. NOEL AND CURT MOORE IN

KHARTOUM. GODLEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, PARAMILITARY FORCES, YOUTH GROUPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BEIRUT02512
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740371/aaaacohd.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 APR 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <30-Sep-2002 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRITISH AIRWAYS HIJACKING
TAGS: PINS, ETRN, XF, BRITISH AIRWAYS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005